

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01

NEAE-00 /170 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9251

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6007

C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR TEXT PARA#5)

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ PFOR, XF

SUBJ: SISCO INTERVIEW WITH MAARIV CORRESPONDENT

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REF: STATE 149709

1. SISCO INTERVIEW CITED REFTEL WAS LEAD STORY IN JULY 31 MAARIV. HEADLINE STATED "SISCO CALLS ON ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES TO SEEK NEW APPROACHES THAT WILL MAKE NEGOTIATIONS POSSIBLE." FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE.

2. AMERICAN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NEAR EAST AFFAIRS, MR. JOSEPH SISCO, YESTERDAY URGED ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSITIONS ON MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE AND SEEK NEW APPROACHES TO ENABLE A PROCESS LEADING TO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS TO GET UNDERWAY.

3. MR. SISCO YESTERDAY MADE THIS STATEMENT IN A BACKGROUND TALK WITH MAARIV EDITOR, MR. ARIYEH DISSENTCHIK. MR. DISSENTCHIK YESTERDAY ALSO MET DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. KENNETH RUSH, FOR AN EXCHANGE OF EVALUATIONS ON PRESENT SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST. CONVERSATION WITH RUSH AND SISCO PRODUCED IMPRESSION THAT STATE DEPARTMENT SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN PRESENT POSITIONS ON ADMINISTRATION THROUGH CHANNEL OF MAARIV WITHOUT COMMITTING ITSELF ON AN OFFICIAL PLANE. MR. SISCO ALSO WANTED TO URGE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO SEARCH FOR NEW APPROACHES WHICH WOULD ENABLE US GOVERNMENT TO INITIATE NEW CONTACTS WITH JERUSALEM AND CAIRO. THIS IMPRESSION WAS REINFORCED BY FACT THAT MR. SISCO RARELY GRANTS ON-THE-RECORD INTERVIEWS TO ISRAELI JOURNALISTS. AT END OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. DISSENTCHIK, MR. SISCO HAD A PREPARED WRITTEN STATEMENT ENCOURAGING THE PARTIES TO NEGOTIATE AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR MISSION TO MIDDLE EAST OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL, DR. KURT WALDHEIM. CONVERSATION CLEARLY REFLECTED TENDENCY THAT INITIATIVE FOR NEW MOVE SHOULD COME FROM ISRAEL AND NOT FROM US.

4. PRESUMABLY THESE IDEAS OF MR. SISCO AND MR. RUSH WILL BE REFLECTED TODAY IN A CONVERSATION BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NEAR EAST AFFAIRS AND ISRAEL AMBASSADOR IN THE US, SIMHA DINITZ.

5. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH EDITOR OF MAARIV, SISCO SAID IT WAS NOT FOR THE US TO TELL THE PARTIES IN SO MANY WORDS
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WHAT INITIATIVES TO TAKE IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT NEGOTIATIONS. "SO FAR AS ISRAEL IS CONCERNED, IT BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE THINGS WHICH IT CAN AND MUST DO IN ORDER TO SET THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN MOTION. THE US CONTINUES TO BE READY TO HELP. THE PROPOSED VISIT OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL DR. KURT WALDHEIM TO THE MIDDLE EAST FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES ALSO SUPPLIES AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY. WE FULLY SUPPORT THE EFFORT OF THE UN SECRETARY AND WE HOPE

THAT THE PARTIES WILL KNOW HOW TO COOPERATE WITH THEM
INSPIREDLY AND UNRESERVEDLY," SISCO SAID.

6. REFERRING TO VETO WHICH US CAST IN MIDDLE EAST DEBATE
AT SECURITY COUNCIL, SISCO EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT
HISTORY WILL PROVE THAT THE AMERICAN VETO PREVENTED A
RESULT WHICH SOME MIGHT HAVE HAILED AS A VICTORY AT THE
TIME BUT WHICH IN THE LONG RUN WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE PROVED
TO BE A PYRRHIC VICTORY." MR. SISCO WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE
US DECISION TO CAST A VETO WHICH HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN LIGHTLY
AND FOR WHICH THE US WOULD HAVE TO PAY A PRICE, HAD SUCCEEDED
IN KEEPING PROSPECT OF ACHIEVING PROGRESS TOWARDS A PEACE
SETTLEMENT ALIVE.

VELIOTES

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